



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Engineering, LTH
LTH Faculty-wide PhD Courses

Course Syllabus GEM085F
2020-05-26

Introduction to qualitative research methods (Introduktion till kvalitativa forskningsmetoder)

Introduction to qualitative methods is an elective faculty-wide third-cycle (PhD) course at the Faculty of Engineering (LTH). The course is primarily intended for doctoral students who has started to work (or is currently working) empirically with their own qualitative research.

Aim: The aim of the course is to provide an overview of qualitative research methods with a specific focus on interviews and observations. The course will thus improve the participants knowledge about qualitative methods mainly used in social sciences. The participants will enhance their ability to plan and carry out a study based on a qualitative method.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

For a Pass on the course, participants shall:

- demonstrate awareness of different qualitative methods and how they can be implemented in research

Competence and skills

For a Pass on the course, participants shall:

- demonstrate the ability to select and justify the choice of a qualitative research approach in relation to alternative available methods based on a given research question
- demonstrate the ability to collect and analyse qualitative empirical research material
- be able to produce a report on a qualitative study and justify the selection of method based on a given research question
- be able to critically examine a qualitative study, and discuss and reflect on the quality and ethical aspects of such research

Judgement and approach

For a Pass on the course, participants shall:

- demonstrate ability to critically reflect on the experiences and consequences of collection and analysis of qualitative empirical material

Content:	<p>The course introduces characteristics of qualitative research methods and the process of conducting a qualitative research study, including research aim, planning, conducting, analysing to reporting is covered. The practical use of different methods as well as the analysis are covered. Issues of quality of qualitative research are discussed, as well as ethical aspects.</p> <p>The assessment of the course is an individually written paper based on a small-scale individual project. The purpose is that the participant should gain personal experience from using one or more qualitative methods by conducting a minor investigation, preferably related to the participants own thesis work.</p>
Instruction:	The course consists of lectures, tutorials and literature reading. The participant conducts an individual assignment, i.e., a qualitative study.
Assessment:	Substantial active participation in course activities is a requirement, e.g. more than 80 % of the scheduled classroom sessions and completed the individual assignment (Pass/Fail).
Scope:	The course corresponds to 6 credits in third-cycle (PhD) studies (with Pass and Fail as available grades), if this is in line with the individual study plan.
Admission:	To be prioritized in the admission to the course, applicants have to be admitted to a PhD programme at LTH.
Selection:	Priority is given to students who will use qualitative methods for their research studies.
Language:	The course is taught in English.
Website:	http://www.lth.se/omlth/kompetensutveckling/gemensamma_forskarutbildningskurser
Reading:	<p>The course book is Brinkman, Svend & Kvale, Steinar (2014). <i>InterViews: learning the craft of qualitative research interviewing (3.ed)</i>. ISBN: 9781452275727, Los Angeles: Sage Publications.</p> <p>A selection of research articles will be made available at the start of the course and the participant is expected to find articles relevant for the individual assignment.</p>
Course director:	Åsa Thelander, Associate Professor, Department of Strategic Communication (asa.thelander@isk.lu.se).
Category:	The course is a faculty-wide third-cycle (PhD) course at LTH.
Other:	A current schedule is available on the course homepage.